



# Naval Education Training News

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NETN0601 CNO Thanks NROTC Programs For Creating Future Leaders,  
story by Chief Journalist Walter T. Ham IV, Chief of  
Naval Operations Public Affairs

NORFOLK, Va. (NNS) -- Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps  
(NROTC) programs around the nation are creating superb naval  
officers to lead the Navy Marine Corps team in the 21st century,  
Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Vern Clark said during his  
May 8 address at the Hampton Roads NROTC commissioning ceremony  
at Norfolk State University.

"If I had my way, I would in fact be commissioning every  
individual that raised their right hand to become an officer in  
the United States Navy," said Clark. "I believe that you, as a  
group, represent everything that is so good and promising about  
the future of our services."

"Today, it is my pleasure to commission both Ensigns in the  
United States Navy and 2nd Lieutenants in the United States

Marine Corps," Clark continued. "The Navy and Marine Corps have never been closer than they are today. Ever."

Along with the 70 other NROTC programs around the country, Clark said the Hampton Roads NROTC class, comprised of students from Old Dominion University, Hampton University and Norfolk State University, is another example of the Navy's commitment to the growth and development of its Sailors. Thirty-seven of the 47 officers in the class he commissioned had prior fleet experience.

"You are a testament to the growth and development of the young men and women that are serving in the Navy today," Clark said. "It is our task to give the young men and women who make a decision to serve in the military the tools so that they can succeed, and as they progress, we do give them more responsibility."

The CNO also emphasized that graduating NROTC classes now assume their new charge: the full weight and responsibility of their commissions.

"As Ensigns and 2nd Lieutenants, you will focus first on mission accomplishment and victory. Everything that you have done in your life up to now has prepared you for this moment," Clark said. "Your country and your leaders are placing special trust in your abilities and your character. We are vesting authority in you along with your commission--the authority to lead."

"You are getting ready to lead the most impressive, the most awesome enlisted force that I have ever seen since I joined the Navy in 1968. They are magnificent," Clark said. "This is a sacred trust, but I am confident that you are well prepared. I'm confident that you are ready."

Clark said he was glad to receive the invitation to the commissioning ceremony, because it gave him the chance to thank not only the Hampton Roads NROTC program, but also NROTC programs around the nation.

"This is my opportunity to say thank you to the Hampton Roads NROTC consortium and to all the NROTC units around the country because you, the NROTCs of the United States of America, create superb leaders for our Navy and our Marine Corps," Clark said. "They are the foundation of what we want to be."

For more on the CNO, go to [www.chinfo.navy.mil/navpalib/cno](http://www.chinfo.navy.mil/navpalib/cno).

For related news, visit the Chief of Naval Operations Navy NewsStand page at [www.news.navy.mil/local/cno](http://www.news.navy.mil/local/cno).

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NETN0602 NETC Announces 2003 Instructors of the Year, story by Darlene Goodwin, NETC Public Affairs

PENSACOLA, Fla. (NNS) -- Commander, Naval Education and Training Command (NETC) Vice Admiral Alfred G. Harms Jr. announced the NETC Instructors of the Year (IOY) for 2003, in late April.

The Naval Education and Training Command (NAVEDTRACOM) Military IOY award recognizes Navy and Marine Corps instructors who exemplify personal excellence, and display outstanding instructional and leadership performance. Award recipients receive a Navy and Marine Corps Commendation medal, an engraved plaque and a cash award.

The NETC Enlisted, Senior Enlisted and Officer IOY are, respectively: Aviation Structural Mechanic 1st Class (AW/NAC) William H. Young, nominated by the Chief of Naval Air Training (CNATRA); Chief Electronics Technician (SW/AW) John B. Hertzberg, from the Naval Personnel Development Command (NPDC); and Lt. Matthew D. Cantagallo, from the Naval Service Training Command (NSTC).

"These outstanding instructors epitomize the dedication and professionalism of instructors throughout the Naval Education and Training Command," said Harms in a message to the claimancy. "I know they will continue providing our Sailors and Marines the training so necessary to maintain the fleet's superb readiness."

Harms also congratulated the NAVEDTRACOM community winners, saying they demonstrated sustained excellence and achieved many noteworthy accomplishments during the past year. Community winners included Aviation Electrician's Mate 1st Class (AW) Martin D. Johnson, NPDC Enlisted IOY; Engineman 1st Class (SW) Luther F. Sprayberry, NSTC Enlisted IOY; Chief Damage Controlman (SW) David W. Webster, CNATRA Senior Enlisted IOY; and Lt. Cmdr. Jefferey W. Fenton, NPDC Officer IOY.

For more information on Naval education and training, visit the NETC Web site at <https://www.netc.navy.mil>.

For related news, visit the Naval Education and Training Command Navy NewsStand page at [www.news.navy.mil/local/cnet](http://www.news.navy.mil/local/cnet).

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NETN0603 CNP Stresses Importance of Graduate Education for Naval Aviators, from Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

PENSACOLA, Fla. (NNS) -- Graduate education opportunities and joint professional military education will become an increasingly important career milestone for naval aviators.

That was the message delivered by Chief of Naval Personnel Vice Adm. Gerry Hoewing at the Naval Aviation Museum Foundation's Annual Symposium May 7.

"Our naval aviation career path is an extremely full career," said Hoewing. "Between sea duty and shore duty and staff jobs, wedging in the opportunity for education has been difficult in the past. We're going to make that a higher priority to ensure our officers have the requisite skills necessary to be better business managers and better leaders at the senior levels."

The Navy has already begun addressing the issue, noted Hoewing. Efforts are underway to: increase post-graduate programs from several major universities in Fleet Concentration Areas; expand the Naval Postgraduate School's Executive MBA program; and make distance and Web-based joint professional education more accessible.

"We have to get this right," added Hoewing. "We grow great naval officers. We're good at that. But we also need to be able to grow visionary leaders who can lead at the highest levels of joint and combined warfare."

Hoewing also took a few minutes to praise the level of commitment Sailors are showing to their service and gave a glimpse of what the future holds for the Navy's workforce.

"Our Sailors out there want to serve. I would say the level of energy and patriotism is higher than I've seen in many, many years," said Hoewing. "Sailors want to stay and are competing to stay in the Navy, because we are becoming the employer of choice."

The Navy will have fewer people in the future, he noted, but that is because the Navy is taking advantage of technology and working to trim the actual requirement for manpower.

"One of our challenges is to make sure we have the force shaped to what the real jobs are out there in the fleet. We want to make sure we have our military people doing military work."

The symposium brought together active, reserve and retired naval aviators from around the fleet to discuss current events and issues.

For more information about the Naval Aviation Museum Foundation, visit their website at: <http://naval.aviation.museum/home.html>.

For related news, visit the Chief of Naval Personnel Navy NewsStand page at [www.news.navy.mil/local/cnp](http://www.news.navy.mil/local/cnp).

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NETN0604 Navy Announces New Contract for NCPACE, story by  
Darlene Goodwin, NETC Public Affairs

PENSACOLA, Fla. (NNS) -- The Director of Naval Education and Training, Vice Adm. Alfred G. Harms Jr., announced May 4 the selection of Central Texas College as the contractor that will provide courses and instructors for the Navy College Program for Afloat College Education (NCPACE).

In a message to the fleet, Harms said the new contractor would "continue to provide high quality education to Sailors and Marines pursuing academic goals while serving afloat."

NCPACE was designed to provide afloat personnel the ability to initiate, continue, and/or complete courses associated with technical certificates or degree programs, and is complementary to existing voluntary education programs available ashore. It offers courses ranging from basic academic skills to graduate-level coursework.

According to Lt. Cmdr. Steven Stopler, director, Navy Voluntary Education, NCPACE is an integral part of the Navy's Voluntary Education Program.

"NCPACE is continuing to expand its critical role in supporting

the Navy's Lifelong Learning Continuum," said Stopler. "Under this new contract, the program will provide Sailors and Marines with better opportunities to further their educational goals by offering more relevant courses delivered through a variety of methods, including paper-based, CD-ROM and teleconferencing. As we continue to refine existing voluntary education programs and develop new opportunities to better aid Sailors and Marines in reaching their education goals, NCPACE will remain at the core of the Navy's Voluntary Education Program."

Under the NCPACE contract, the Navy funds 100 percent of the costs of tuition for up to two courses per term. The cost of books and associated fees are the responsibility of the student.

NCPACE is open to Navy and Marine Corps personnel permanently assigned to U.S. Naval vessels, or deployable staffs or squadrons. It also offers qualified active-duty members the opportunity to teach while at sea as an NCPACE instructor, after receiving command approval and completing program requirements established by the contractor.

Commands interested in using NCPACE services must contact their local Navy College Office (NCO) at least 120 days prior to a scheduled deployment.

For further information on NCPACE, contact Elise McGuire, NCPACE contracting officer's representative, at (850) 452-1001 ext. 2087, DSN 922-1001 ext. 2087, or email: [elise.mcguire@navy.mil](mailto:elise.mcguire@navy.mil).

To inquire about shipboard teaching opportunities, contact Central Texas College at 1-800-223-4760 (in Texas), or 1-800-792-3348 (outside of Texas), or visit their Web site at <http://www.ctcd.cc.tx.us/>.

For more information on Navy training and education, visit <https://www.netc.navy.mil/>.

For related news, visit the Naval Education and Training Command Navy NewsStand page at [www.news.navy.mil/local/cnet](http://www.news.navy.mil/local/cnet).

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NETN0605 Navy Pilot Hits 1,000 Hour Mark in the T6 Texan II,  
story by Lt. Rob Lyon, Chief of Naval Air Training  
Public Affairs

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas (NETN) -- Lt. Dave Kirk, as a Navy flight instructor at Moody Air Force Base in Georgia at the 3rd Flying Training Squadron, trains both Navy and USAF students in primary flight. He has the unique distinction of being one of the few Navy instructors teaching in the newest military aircraft, the T6 Texan II, and recently reached a milestone in aviation achieving his 1,000 hour on May 27.

The opportunity to train pilots in the latest aircraft was a chance Kirk was not going to pass, though he soon found that working in a joint training environment would have its difficulties. According to Kirk, "As a Navy IP (instructor pilot) training students in an Air Force squadron, the cultural differences between our services were challenging to become accustomed to."

Though once in the cockpit the cultural differences were small in comparison to the benefits of flying the Navy's newest aircraft. "It has twice as much power, performance, and safety as the T-34C," said Kirk. "The engine is rated at 1100 shaft horsepower, and will propel the T-6 at over 270 knots in straight and level flight. The Navy is currently transitioning from the T-34C. Though fully aerobatic, it has older analog instruments, no ejection seats, and a maximum speed of 280 knots."

With the extra power and reliability, the T6 brings a new level performance to primary training. Primary can take 23 weeks to complete and is the first time students will fly in a military environment. The overall effect the T-6 brings to primary training is immersing students in a much more physically and mentally demanding training environment. "The obvious difference from the T-34C is that now students will be wearing G-suits and an oxygen mask from day one in the cockpit," said Kirk. "The T-6A, with its hydraulic and pressurization systems, is a more complex airframe than the T-34C. Students will probably be required to learn more systems earlier in their training than before," he explained.

Kirk also touts the benefits of the digital or "glass" cockpit in primary training. "With the growing use of glass instrument displays in the cockpits of the P-3C, SH-60, and F-18, it is definitely 'value added' to introduce a digital cockpit environment early in pilot training," explained Kirk.



"The airframe is limited to a 316 knots never exceed speed," explained Kirk. "+7.0 and -3.5 G's for maneuvering," he continued. "G-suits are worn on most flights, and the Martin Baker ejection seats provide zero/zero ejection capability to save the pilots in an emergency."

"It has been extremely rewarding to help stand up a brand new squadron flying brand new airplanes," said Kirk. "We have had many opportunities to visit the Raytheon factory in Wichita, Kansas, to pick up new T-6A's. We have basically written the book on how to train students in the T-6A, and our experiences have been incorporated in the NATOPS (Naval Air Training and Operating Procedures Standardization) manual," he said.

The full transition from the T-34C in Naval Air Training should be completed by Fiscal Year 2015.

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NETN0606 Big E Sailors Get Advancement Tips from a Pro, story  
by Journalist 3rd Class Daniel Vaughan, USS Enterprise  
Public Affairs

ABOARD USS ENTERPRISE, At Sea (NNS) -- USS Enterprise (CVN 65) Sailors got a head start on preparing for the next advancement cycle with a visit from Master Chief Hull Technician Norman Tilton, command master chief for the Naval Education Training Professional Development Technology Center May 14.

Tilton, a writer of the hull maintenance technician (HT) enlisted advancement exams, visited Enterprise Sailors to discuss advancement strategy.

Tilton gave Big E Sailors the inside scoop on how advancement exams are developed. Test questions are created by chiefs straight from sea duty, assisted by civilian specialists.

"The first thing I do is develop a test plan and test outline," said Tilton.

Exam writers determine the number of questions on a certain rating-specific subject by evaluating how important the subject is to the rating. For example, welding is important to HTs, so an HT exam will contain a large number of questions on welding. Exam writers also use statistics in developing exams.

"Every question that goes out on every Navy advancement exam comes back with statistics," said Tilton. "They tell me exactly how many people got the question right, and how many people picked each of the alternatives. A perfect question will come back with 50 percent getting the right answer and then the other answers on the exam forming an equal amount of the lower 50 percent." Each new exam uses a combination of proven old questions and newly-developed questions.

Tilton also busted a few myths concerning advancement exams, such as the rumor that the top and bottom 20 questions of the test are thrown out.

"Not true," said Tilton. "We grade everything."

Some questions may be thrown out for specific reasons, however. Exam writers take each exam they develop themselves to ensure accuracy of the questions.

"When you take the HT1, ET1 [Electronics Technician], or IT1 [Information Systems Technician] exam, your exam writer is sitting at his desk taking that exam the same day," said Tilton. "We go through and we verify that all the information is correct, that all the questions are valid, all the references are valid, and that the answers made sense. If there's anything that's confusing or anything that's become obsolete, at that time as the exam writer, I have the opportunity to delete that question off the exam."

Tilton explained how advancement exams combine with other factors to form a Sailor's final multiple score (FMS), which determines advancement. The FMS is made up of a Sailor's performance evaluation, passed-not-advanced (PNA) points, award points, time-in-pay grade, and exam scores.

"Don't get wrapped up in the overall computation of this. Don't worry about what your score is. Look at what you can control: studying for the exam," advised Tilton. "Thirty-four percent of your final multiple score is off of that exam. Seventy percent of your advancement you can control."

One resource Sailors can use to increase their chances of doing well on the exam is the Navy Advancement Center's advancement exam strategy guides, which can be found at [www.advancement.cnet.navy.mil](http://www.advancement.cnet.navy.mil). Sailors can find tools, such as

strategy guides and sample questions, on the Web site. Another useful resource is bibliographies.

"It's very important that you pull the most current bibs for your rating exam, because after I develop a test, that's when the bibliography is created," said Tilton. "The bib is created from the exam."

Study habits are important, as well. Tilton recommends getting an early start by getting the bibliography six months before the exam and studying a little bit each day.

"Instead of trying to cram six hours a night over two weeks prior to the exam, after you've put in a long day on the Big E, take 30 to 45 minutes out of your day, pull the bib, one chapter out of one of those bibs on the exam and study it," he said.

Tilton's visit provided interested Enterprise Sailors with valuable insight and direction to useful resources. Sailors can jump online to the Naval Advancement Center's Web site and start studying for the next exam today.

For related news, visit the USS Enterprise (CVN 65) Navy NewsStand page at [www.news.navy.mil/local/cvn65](http://www.news.navy.mil/local/cvn65).

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NETN0607 Sailors Aboard Nimitz PACE Themselves, story by  
Journalist 3rd Class Kristine DeHoux, USS Nimitz Public  
Affairs

NORTH ISLAND, Calif. (NNS) -- USS Nimitz (CVN 68) is showing that higher education is a command priority, by making more Program for Afloat College Education (PACE) courses available to Sailors.

Since January, the Educational Services Office (ESO) has helped crew members earn nearly 780 credit hours. The instructor-based, Central Texas College courses range in subjects from math and English, to business and academic skills.

"I feel that getting a higher education is one of the most important things you can do while you're in the military," said Personnelman 1st Class Christine Herrera, who works in ESO and organizes the classes.

Herrera said she feels that by taking these courses, Sailors will better prepare themselves for whenever they decide to leave the military service, whether it's two years or 22 years from now.

Sailors of all ratings and ranks are currently taking advantage of these eight-week-long college courses while the ship works through its Planned Incremental Availability.

"Any way you look at it, these classes are good for the Sailor and good for the Navy," said Commanding Officer Capt. Robert J. Gilman. "We must make the effort to get the ship's mission accomplished while making time for Sailors to attend these classes."

According to the Education Services Officer, Ensign Lamont Pelaez, turn out for the classes has been good, but the team at ESO always hopes to see more Sailors taking advantage of the PACE courses.

"The classes are being offered for free, and it's something all Sailors should take advantage of," said Pelaez. "We're here for you."

For related news, visit the USS Nimitz (CVN 68) Navy NewsStand page at [www.news.navy.mil/local/cvn68](http://www.news.navy.mil/local/cvn68).

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NETN0608 Medical Education Goes Online, from Naval Medical Education and Training Command Public Affairs

BETHESDA, Md. (NNS) -- Naval Medicine leaders have unveiled the Basic Medical Department Officers Course (BMDOC), available via Navy Knowledge Online (NKO).

Accessed through Navy eLearning on NKO, the BMDOC consists of 15-20 hours of coursework that introduces the business and operational aspects of Naval Medicine's role in delivering force health protection.

The Naval Medical Education and Training Command (NMETC) developed BMDOC for all Naval Medical Department personnel.

Future courses include advanced courses for 0-4s and 0-5s, as well as an executive course of study for 0-6s. Courses for enlisted and civilian personnel are also in development.

According to Capt. Catherine Tymensky, director of Learning Continuum Development for NMETC, the course will introduce junior officers to the concepts and organizational structure of Naval Medicine, and expose junior officers to important information about how Navy Medicine operates and is resourced.

The online course provides career development through convenient and affordable learning.

"The student has the convenience of managing his or her own learning. Because of its availability online, students can access the course anytime, anywhere," said Cmdr. Patrick Malone, NMETC's director of academics.

BMDOC supports the CNO's vision of revolutionizing education and training and serves as one of the key steps in the professional development of medical department leadership. A future goal of BMDOC is to become an essential requirement for promotion.

For related news, visit the Naval Medicine Navy NewsStand page at [www.news.navy.mil/local/mednews](http://www.news.navy.mil/local/mednews).

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NETN0609 MWTC Holds Change of Command, story by Lt. j.g. Jeremy Huff, Mine Warfare Training Center Ingleside Public Affairs

INGLESIDE, Texas (NETN) -- Command of the Mine Warfare Training Center passed from Capt. Richard Rush to Cmdr. Ricks Polk on May 7 in a ceremony held at Naval Station Ingleside.

In 1989, Rush took command of the USS Implicit (MSO 455), a mine sweeping ocean ship homeported in Tacoma, Wash. During his tenure the ship was awarded two Battle Efficiency awards for sustained superior performance in an operational environment, and the Golden Anchor award for retention. He returned to mine warfare in May 2000, assuming command of Mine Countermeasures Squadron Two.

Rush assumed command of Mine Warfare Training Center (MWTC) and Afloat Training Group Ingleside (ATGI) in October 2002. From mine warfare homeland defense war gaming and organic mine countermeasures, his concept of operations efforts led to mainstreaming mine warfare in surface, air, submarine, diving and intelligence forces. His efforts supported Operation Iraqi Freedom and initial deployment of the High Speed Vessel, Swift.

Rush's next assignment is as a special assistant to the Chief of Naval Operations for Joint Chiefs of Staff matters.

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NETN0610 Troops to Teachers: Service After the Military, story by Journalist 2nd Class Lily Daniels, U.S. Naval Forces Europe Public Affairs

LONDON (NNS) -- Representatives from the Troops to Teachers (TTT) program visited Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Europe headquarters building April 20, to inform Sailors of a possible second career, "serving students."

Attendees were able to gain insight into the process of becoming a teacher, including certification requirements and job opportunities.

Sailors with a baccalaureate degree or higher are eligible to begin the teaching certification process to become an academic subject teacher. However, many Sailors may already qualify to become a vocational/technical teacher. Sailors only need the equivalent of one year of college courses and six years of experience in a vocational or technical field to begin the certification process.

To complete the process, individuals can use an Alternative Certification Program (ACP) or University Teacher Preparation Program. Sailors within the European theater may benefit from an ACP, since this method offers online courses to obtain the teaching certification.

Military members from all of the armed forces can use tuition assistance for their teaching certification while on active duty. Members may also be eligible for financial assistance for teacher certification expenses. A commitment to teach for three years in a "high-need" school district or at a high school with a high

percentage of low-income families is part of the obligation for receiving some forms of financial aid.

There are 33 state TTT offices nationwide that offer placement assistance for the 45 states participating in the program. Offices can assist Sailors with state certification requirements. Sailors can take advantage of the TTT Web site, [www.ProudToServeAgain.com](http://www.ProudToServeAgain.com), to correspond with representatives and receive alternative certification information.

"It's important to focus on where you want to teach, to start checking what your state's requirements are," said John Gantz, director of the TTT Program. "Teacher certification is done state-to-state, not nationally. But some states will recognize another state's certification."

The program began in 1994 as transition assistance towards a teaching career, and has since recruited more than 6,000 military members.

The military members who have become teachers have established a good reputation for the program with school administrators and principals. The TTT headquarters office recently sent out a survey to 1,000 principals regarding the teachers who have come from the program.

"We received more than 800 replies from the survey," said Gantz. "Of those, 17 percent received an average for performance, and more than 75 percent ranked above average and higher. School systems are finding former military members to be very valuable assets. They bring leadership skills, a concern for their students (similar to their troops) and a lot of experience to the classroom."

Schools are also seeing a higher retention rate from former military members than teachers who just finished college.

The cultural diversity of the military is proving an added bonus, as the program is providing individuals from a variety of backgrounds. "Schools are looking for a stronger presence of male and minority teachers at the elementary level," added Gantz. "A lot of kids are being raised by one parent, and schools are looking for positive role models to help fill that void."

Teaching positions are available at the elementary, middle and high school levels in suburban, small towns, rural and inner-city areas. There is a higher demand for math, science and special

education teachers. Positions for other subjects are obtainable, but applicants may need to be more flexible with location.

Sailors can consult their TTT representative on job availabilities, or check the Department of Education Web site at [www.teachers-teachers.com](http://www.teachers-teachers.com). The Web site lists teaching vacancies for each state.

Sailors interested in the Troops to Teachers program can get more information from their state TTT office, stateside DSN 922-1320, or toll-free 1-800-231-6242, or online at [www.ProudToServeAgain.com](http://www.ProudToServeAgain.com).

For related news, visit the Naval Forces Europe Navy NewsStand page at [www.news.navy.mil/local/naveur](http://www.news.navy.mil/local/naveur).

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NETN0611 HT-8 Manages Change and Remains Mishap-Free, story by  
Derek Nelson, Naval Safety Center Public Affairs

NORFOLK, Va. (NNS) -- The "Eightballers" of Helicopter Training Squadron (HT) 8 are maintaining their impressive mishap-free streak, in spite of sweeping changes in advanced rotary-wing flight training.

The squadron's successful program is a model for other commands, as they work to meet the Secretary of Defense initiative for the DoD to reduce mishaps by 50 percent.

When the mishap-reduction mandate was issued in May of last year, the squadron was already in the midst of developing a radically new approach to how they trained and graded student naval aviators. They were changing the syllabus and the type of skills taught, including the introduction of night-vision-goggle training. They also faced a drastic increase in production because of fleet demand (up to 21 percent over existing levels).

"We've been conditioned to expect and welcome change," said Cmdr. Chip Laingen, the former commanding officer of HT-8. "But this much change, all at once, presented an array of new hazards that threatened to undermine our nearly perfect safety record." The record he refers to is among the longest safe streaks in modern aviation: 900,000-plus mishap-free flight hours.



HT-8 took a two-tiered approach to balancing safe, high-quality training and production. They increased emphasis on operational risk management (ORM) fundamentals to approach all of the outside and self-imposed changes. The goal was to make ORM an every day – and welcome – word, particularly for students, in every task they undertook that involved risk, on and off duty.

The squadron also increased the shelf life of safety knowledge through comprehensive turnover policies and improved take-away tools, that stress aviation safety fundamentals to student naval aviators and returning fleet aviators.

Laying out this approach was only the beginning. Success meant systematic reinforcement at every level of the command, and continuously connecting safety strategies to the squadron's strategic plan. "We strongly felt any command's successful safety climate hinges first and foremost on leadership, pure and simple," said Cmdr. Sally deGozzaldi, HT-8's commanding officer.

HT-8 went to great lengths to make this known, including tangible rewards for those who best represented the emphasis on safety. In one instance, they awarded a Navy Achievement Medal to a flight student who saved a helicopter from dynamic rollover through her actions as an observer.

"Fortunately for all concerned, safety leadership was demonstrated at the top when our new commodore reinforced from day one, publicly and often, that safety was an equal priority to production," said deGozzaldi.

"The squadron's safety record can't make much of a dent in the goal of 50-percent reduction in mishaps Navy-wide," Laingen added. "But the good habits and practices we instill in our students will go a long way toward that goal when they report to the fleet."

For related news, visit the Naval Safety Center Navy NewsStand page at [www.news.navy.mil/local/nsc](http://www.news.navy.mil/local/nsc).

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